



## Negative Effects of Chronically Wet Putting Greens

In a survey done a few years ago, wet greens was cited as the highest rated agronomic problem in the management of putting greens.\* This condition is most often caused by circumstances the superintendent has little control of.

### Excessive soil water will likely cause some, or all of the following problems:

1. More prone to soil compaction which creates a shallow, weak root system.
2. A higher tendency for weeds, fungus, disease and pests.
3. Soft under-footing that creates a bumpy, uneven surface.
4. Slower putting surface.
5. More inclined to spike marks.

No doubt these problems are undesirable, but they are compounded when accompanied by heat. The general rule of thumb is: when the numbers for heat and humidity equal 150, the optimum conditions for problems exist. Some regions customarily encounter heat stress for months at a time. Other areas, as a rule, only have to deal with heat for a few weeks. Even in short lived situations, excess moisture, heat, or both can take a high toll on the turf, superintendent, staff, and budget. Don't forget potential loss of revenue also.

*Air Max* high velocity, venturi fans are proven to be effective in alleviating, if not eliminating, problems associated with excessive moisture on your greens. This is achieved by the evapotranspiration resulting from the supplemental air movement across the green. In the process potentially fewer chemicals are needed. This equates to saving labor, money and the environment.

*Air Max* fans are the best value in greens maintenance fans on the market. They may well be one of the most valuable tools the golf course superintendent has.

\* Managing Soil Water, Stanley Zontek, USGA Greens Section, September/October 1994 issue.